

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
January 30, 2008  
Room W130, West Office, Building, State Capitol Complex**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Dennis Stowell, Co-Chair  
Rep. Ben Ferry, Co-Chair  
Sen. Margaret Dayton  
Rep. Roger Barrus  
Rep. Jack Draxler  
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson  
Rep. James R. Gowans  
Rep. John G. Mathis  
Rep. Michael E. Noel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. Mike Dmitrich  
Sen. John Valentine  
Rep. Carl Duckworth  
Rep. Steve Sandstrom

STAFF: Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst  
Linda Service, Committee Secretary

**Note:** A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Rep. Ferry called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Gowans moved to approve the minutes of January 23, 2008 and January 24, 2008.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**Requests for FY 2008 Non-lapsing Balances:** Analyst's Presentation

Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, distributed a summary with the Fiscal Analyst's recommendation for funding for General Funds.

**Division of Parks and Recreation - Analyst's Presentation**

The Analyst presented the Budget Brief, Division of Parks and Recreation. The Division is responsible for management and development of 42 state parks, statewide boating safety and off-highway vehicle safety. The parks are a combination of heritage, scenic, and recreation parks. The Division is requesting a supplemental appropriation of \$433,400 from the GFR-State Park Fees account for capital facilities improvements for FY 2008. The Analyst recommends the Subcommittee fund this request.

The new management of This Is The Place Foundation has requested an ongoing appropriation of \$100,000 from the General Fund to restore state funding to the level of the original agreement between the state and the Foundation. The Analyst recommends the committee place this request on its priority list for the Executive Appropriations Committee.

In 2007 the Park's Board increased certain golf fees with the intention to invest the increased revenues in the golfing program. The Analyst recommends the Subcommittee provide the following appropriation from the GFR-State Park Fees account: 1) \$180,000 as a supplemental appropriation for FY 2008, and 2) \$180,000 as an ongoing appropriation for FY 2009.

Due to high use and aging, many state parks need major infrastructure repairs. The Analyst recommends the Subcommittee provide for FY 2009 a one-time appropriation of \$250,000 from the GFR-State Park Fees account.

The Jordan River OHV Center is a motocross/ATV track. The Division is requesting funding to hire an OHV track professional and to properly fund operating expenses. The Analyst recommends the Subcommittee provide \$150,000 as a supplemental appropriation for FY 2008 and \$250,000 as an ongoing appropriation for FY 2009.

The Division has proposed to develop and administer two programs which target markets within OHV users where there is significant demand and revenue generating opportunities: an OHV Camp and the Utah Trails Tour. The Analyst recommends the Subcommittee provide \$40,000 as a supplemental appropriation for FY 2008 and \$15,000 as a one-time appropriation for FY 2009 from the GFR-OHV account.

The Division has encouraged its staff to be creative and identify ways to generate additional revenues. The Division is planning to start a new program which would assess the feasibility of the proposals and fund those that meet certain criteria. The funding for the new program is to be \$75,000 from the GFR-State Park Fees account. Mary Tullius, Director of Utah State Parks, and Mark Forbes, Deputy Director, responded to committee questions.

The Analyst presented the Budget Brief - Parks and Recreation Capital. This line item provides capital funding for construction projects, as well as funding match for federal and local government dollars for capital acquisition and development. The Trail Maintenance Program is an on-going partnership with the National Forest and BLM to provide maintenance of OHV trails. These trails are the backbone of the state OHV program and generate revenues. The Division is requesting for FY 2009 a one-time appropriation of \$1,500,000 from the GFR--OHV for the Trail Maintenance Program. The Analyst recommends the Subcommittee fund the request.

The last request is for an on-going appropriation of \$1,500,000 from the General Fund to address some of the major needs of the \$154 million in capital maintenance backlog.

The Analyst presented the Issue Brief - Fees. Mary Tullius responded to questions and concerns from committee members. A project list was requested by the committee which will be forthcoming.

#### Agency Presentation

Mary Tullius presented handouts, one of which was a Tribune article giving tribute to 50 years of Utah state parks. She reviewed the Division's budget requests, highlighting the Park Enhancement Program which gives incentives and rewards to park staff by returning some of the revenue generated

if revenue is exceeded and stays within budget. She discussed renovation and repairs, Wasatch Mountain State Park, This is the Place Park, and OHV projects. She answered questions raised by committee members and expressed thanks to Ellis Ivory and Matt Dahl for their work on The is the Place Park Foundation.

Ellis Ivory, Chairman of This is the Place Park Foundation, responded to committee concerns regarding \$450,000 U. of U. land lease. He commented on the viability of the Park with declining attendance but which has now been turned around with significant improvements, one of which is the train replicas of the Central and Union Pacific engines carrying visitors through the Park. He responded to further questions from committee members.

**Cooperative Agreement between the Division of Parks and Recreation and the City of Fillmore:**  
Mayor Christensen

Mayor Dave Christensen of the City of Fillmore, presented a request for funds to redesign a building POD and develop a multi-function building. As the POD is now, its use is limited because of lack of amenities and the ability to meet all required needs. The vision for the POD is a professional meeting place and small convention center. A request for funding in the amount of \$75,000 will provide: an architect, mechanical, structural and electrical engineering, construction plans ready for bid, and professional development facts on renovation costs. Paul Adams, Chairman of the Fillmore City Economic Development Committee, commented on the enhanced economic development the convention center building would provide. Questions from committee members were addressed by Mayor Christensen, Mr. Adams, and Mary Tullius.

Rep. Noel asked if it would be possible to have the \$100,000 funds appropriated for Kane/Garfield counties last year to help with litigation expense returned to use for that purpose. Rep. Ferry requested a proposal from Rep. Noel to inform the committee members of the problems associated with the appropriation enabling members to make an informed decision.

MOTION: Rep. Gibson motioned to adjourn. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

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Rep. Ben Ferry, Co-Chairman

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Sen. Dennis Stowell, Co-Chairman